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FRANCE AND THE ALLIANCES. By André Tardieu. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1908. pp. x, 314. 12mo.

The substance of this book M. Tardieu set forth in the Hyde lectures at Harvard in 1908; and the book itself displays both the defects and the excellencies of a series of brief lectures upon so broad a subject. Being not only a brief but a popular presentation of French world-politics, it naturally takes the form of a quick, stimulating, suggestive review and survey rather than a close and substantial study. The English of the book would suffer severely by comparison with the French of the original lectures.

M. Tardieu is not an impartial historian. As he says in his preface: "A Frenchman could not treat such a subject otherwise than from a French point of view." And this French point of view is, if not exactly hostile, at least opponent at all points to the German. The book is chiefly an account of the diplomatic struggles by which France, crushed by the war of 1870, has sought to regain political and military equality with Germany. In this, M. Tardieu believes, she has to-day succeeded.

Against the unwavering, Bismarckian determination of Germany to isolate France though the formation of a Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria, and Italy, — accompanied by the estrangement from France of Russia, England, and Spain, — France has one by one added to her list of treaties, ententes, and rapprochements, with powers other than Germany, till now any move by Germany to reduce France again to her old political inferiority is met by a combination of powers determined to maintain the present equilibrium.

On the surface this result is a triumph of diplomacy, a skillful playing of the world-game of politics. But underneath this aspect of the matter, to which, perhaps, M. Tardieu gives too single an emphasis, the reader may trace the economic causes which have lifted France to a place of new influence. The French are a saving, continent, industrious people. They have little by little become the bankers of western Europe. Russia is France's closest ally. France finances Russia. Italy's old hatred for France is softening. French capital is building the new industrial Italy. And so on, almost without end. Political guarantees have followed hard on the heels of commercial interdependence.

It is for this revelation of the subservience of world-politics to world-economics that the book is likely to prove most interesting. H. S. D.

THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW. By John J. Crawford. Third Edition. New York: Baker, Voorhis and Company. 1908. pp. xlviii, 212.

This volume contains the text of the act together with annotations by the drafter of it. As the number of states that have adopted the act increases (the number is now thirty-five), and as lines of decisions under its various sections are coming into existence, new editions of a work of this nature are very welcome. The annotations contain references to the state of the law before the adoption of the act, citations of cases decided under it with brief statements of their holdings, and occasionally supposititious cases to illustrate the rules laid down in the text. The annotations vary in length from four pages on some sections down to nothing at all on others. This book will undoubtedly be of assistance to the practitioner, and also to one grappling with the act as a student. It is to be regretted, however, that the author did not give greater consideration in his annotations to some sections concerning the interpretation of which controversy has already arisen, as the liability of unauthorized agents under § 39 according to the notation of the New York statute, or § 20 of the Commissioner's draft. See 20 HARV. L. REV. 159.

E. H. G.